

### **CLAIM REJOINDER**

Claim 53 is generic and allowable. Accordingly, claims 82-83, 85-6 are no longer withdrawn from consideration since all of the claims to these species depend from or otherwise include each of the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. The Examiner's Amendment is repeated of one that was introduced in the last Notice of Allowance.

The application has been amended as below:

#### **In the claims:**

**Claim 36:** Cancelled.

**Claim 37:** Cancelled.

**Claim 38:** Cancelled.

**Claim 39:** Cancelled.

**Claim 40:** Cancelled.

**Claim 41:** Cancelled.

**Claim 42:** Cancelled.

**Claim 43:** Cancelled.

**Claim 44:** Cancelled.

**Claim 45:** Cancelled.

**Claim 46:** Cancelled.

**Claim 47:** Cancelled.

**Claim 48:** Cancelled.

**Claim 49:** Cancelled.

**Claim 50:** Cancelled.

**Claim 51:** Cancelled.

**Claim 52:** Cancelled.

**Claim 53:** Replaced as follows:

--53. An apparatus comprising:

droplet ejection devices each comprising an element to change a volume of a fluid chamber of one of the droplet ejection devices, the element having an electrical capacitance, each droplet ejection device being associated with a plurality of charging resistors; and

control circuitry to effect uniform velocities of droplets ejected from at least two different ones of the droplet ejection devices by providing respective charge voltages or charge currents to the volume changing elements to individually control a charge on each volume changing element;

wherein for each droplet ejection device, the control circuitry provides the respective charge voltage or charge current by selecting a first charging resistor associated with the droplet ejection device to charge the electrical capacitance at a first rate followed by deselecting the first charging resistor to maintain the charge

on the electrical capacitance at a first value for a first period of time, followed by selecting a second charging resistor associated with the droplet ejection device to charge the electrical capacitance at a second rate to increase the volume of the fluid chamber, followed by deselecting the second charging resistor to maintain the charge on the electrical capacitance at a second value for a second period of time, followed by selecting a first discharging resistor associated with the droplet ejection device to discharge the electrical capacitance at a third rate, followed by selecting a second discharging resistor associated with the droplet ejection device to discharge the electrical capacitance at a fourth rate to decrease the volume of the fluid chamber,

wherein the first rate, the second rate, the third rate, and the fourth rate are all different rates.--

**Claim 58:** Cancelled.

**Claim 59:** Cancelled.

**Claim 60:** Cancelled.

**Claim 61:** Cancelled.

**Claim 62:** Cancelled.

**Claim 63:** Cancelled.

**Claim 64:** Cancelled.

**Claim 65:** Cancelled.

**Claim 66:** Cancelled.

**Claim 67:** Cancelled.

**Claim 68:** Cancelled.

**Claim 69:** Cancelled.

**Claim 70:** Cancelled.

**Claim 72:** Cancelled.

**Claim 74:** Replaced as below:

--74. A method of operating droplet ejection devices each comprising an element to change a volume of a fluid chamber of one of the droplet ejection devices, the element having an electrical capacitance, each droplet ejection device being associated with a plurality of charging resistors, the method comprising:

effecting uniform velocities of droplets ejected from at least two different ones of the droplet ejection devices by providing respective charge voltages or charge currents to the volume changing elements to individually control a charge on each volume changing element; and

for each droplet ejection device, providing the respective charge voltage or charge current by selecting a first charging resistor associated with the droplet ejection device to charge the electrical capacitance at a first rate followed by deselecting the first charging resistor to maintain the charge on the electrical capacitance at a first value for a first period of time, followed by selecting a second charging resistor associated with the droplet ejection device to charge the electrical capacitance at a second rate to increase the volume of the fluid chamber, followed by deselecting the second charging resistor to maintain the charge on the electrical capacitance at a second value for a second period of time, followed by selecting a first discharging resistor associated with the droplet ejection device to discharge the electrical capacitance at a third rate, followed by selecting a second discharging

resistor associated with the droplet ejection device to discharge the electrical capacitance at a fourth rate to decrease the volume of the fluid chamber,

wherein the first rate, the second rate, the third rate, and the fourth rate are all different rates.--

**Claim 80:** Cancelled.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The reason for allowance was previously indicated.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM S. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-2151. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEPHEN D. MEIER can be reached on (571)272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/LAM S NGUYEN/  
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